

Amend Subsection 360(c),
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Deer: Additional Hunts

- ### 1. Modify Season for Hunt G-19

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The proposed change would move the season end date to December 31, thus allowing sufficient time for the collection of harvest data and incorporation of this data into the Environmental Document analysis.

2. Modify Season for Hunt M-6

Existing regulations for Hunt M-6 provide for a 9 day hunting season in January. Current time lines for compliance with Environmental Document filing require that analysis of harvest and population modeling be completed by mid-January. In order to meet this deadline, harvest data must be available by the first week in January. The current timing of the M-6 season does not allow this to occur.

The proposed change would move the season into December beginning the third Saturday in December and extend through December 31, thus allowing sufficient time for the collection and analysis of harvest data and incorporation of this data into the Environmental Document analysis.

3. Modify Season for Hunt J-8

Existing regulations for Hunt J-8 provide for a 23 day hunting season beginning the third Saturday in December, placing the season closing date sometime in January. Current time lines for compliance with Environmental Document filing require that analysis of harvest and population modeling be completed by mid-January. In order to meet this deadline, harvest data must be available by the first week in January. The current timing of the J-8 season does not allow this to occur.

The proposed change would move the season beginning earlier from the third to the first Saturday in December and ending on December 31, thus allowing sufficient time for the collection and analysis of harvest data and incorporation of this data into the Environmental Document analysis.

4. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-7

Existing regulations for Hunt G-7 provide for a 51 day season beginning the second Saturday in September. Events of September 11, 2001 had a significant affect on operations at all military bases in California including Beale Air Force Base. Heightened security conditions forced cancellation of ongoing or scheduled deer hunts on most military bases. As an alternative, the Department followed policy in the case where access is beyond the Department's control, by offering tag exchanges for available tags or refunds as an option to military hunt tagholders. This action led to extreme hunter dissatisfaction. In addition, the cancellation of these

hunts effectively reduced deer hunting opportunities and interrupted ongoing deer management programs on the base.

The proposed change would increase the season length from 51 to 79 consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in August offering more time in which to schedule hunting activities. The season description will be modified to provide more flexibility to the base Commanding Officer, upon concurrence from the Department, to operate the prescribed season within a time frame between the opening day and December 31. In addition, the policy for tag exchange or refund in case of hunt cancellation will be specifically defined in the special conditions to alleviate further problems or disputes.

5. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-8

Existing regulations for Hunt G-8 provide for a season on Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays beginning the second Saturday in October and continuing for four consecutive weekends. Events of September 11, 2001, had a significant affect on operations at all military bases in California including Fort Hunter Liggett Military Reservation. Heightened security conditions forced cancellation of ongoing or scheduled deer hunts on most military bases. As an alternative, the Department followed policy in the case where access is beyond the Department's control, by offering tag exchanges for available tags or refunds as an option to military hunt tagholders. This action led to extreme hunter dissatisfaction, especially on the part of public hunters. In addition, the cancellation of these hunts effectively reduced deer hunting opportunities and interrupted ongoing deer management programs on the base.

The proposed change would modify the season description to provide more flexibility to the base Commanding Officer, upon concurrence from the Department, to operate the prescribed season within a time frame between the opening day and December 31. In addition, the policy for tag exchange or refund in case of hunt cancellation will be specifically defined in the special conditions to alleviate further problems or disputes.

6. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-9

Existing regulations for Hunt G-9 provide for a season beginning the last Monday in August and extending for eight consecutive days. While the 2001 G-9 hunt season was not affected, since the hunt had been completed, events of September 11, 2001, had a significant affect on operations at all military bases in California including Camp Roberts. Heightened security conditions forced cancellation of ongoing or

scheduled deer hunts on most military bases. As an alternative, the Department followed policy in the case where access is beyond the Department's control, by offering tag exchanges for available tags or refunds as an option to military hunt tagholders. This action led to extreme hunter dissatisfaction, especially on the part of public hunters. In addition, the cancellation of these hunts effectively reduced deer hunting opportunities and interrupted ongoing deer management programs on the base.

The proposed change would modify the season description to provide more flexibility to the base Commanding Officer, upon concurrence from the Department, to operate the prescribed season within a time frame between the opening day and December 31. In addition, the policy for tag exchange or refund in case of hunt cancellation will be specifically defined in the special conditions to alleviate further problems or disputes.

7. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-10

Existing regulations for Hunt G-10 provide for a 72 day season beginning the first Saturday in October. Events of September 11, 2001, had a significant affect on operations at all military bases in California including the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base. Heightened security conditions forced cancellation of ongoing or scheduled deer hunts on most military bases. As an alternative, the Department followed policy in the case where access is beyond the Department's control, by offering tag exchanges for available tags or refunds as an option to military hunt tagholders. This action led to extreme hunter dissatisfaction, especially on the part of public hunters. In addition, the cancellation of these hunts effectively reduced deer hunting opportunities and interrupted ongoing deer management programs on the base.

The proposed change would modify the season description to provide more flexibility to the base Commanding Officer, upon concurrence from the Department, to operate the prescribed season within a time frame between the opening day and December 31. In addition, the policy for tag exchange or refund in case of hunt cancellation will be specifically defined in the special conditions to alleviate further problems or disputes.

8. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-11

Existing regulations for Hunt G-11 provide for a 126 day season beginning the last Monday in August, sometimes placing the season closing date in January. Current time lines for compliance with Environmental Document filing require that analysis of harvest and

population modeling be completed by mid-January. In order to meet this deadline, harvest data must be available by the first week in January. In some years, the timing of the G-11 season does not allow this to occur.

In addition, events of September 11, 2001 had a significant affect on operations at all military bases in California including Vandenberg Air Force Base. Heightened security conditions forced cancellation of ongoing or scheduled deer hunts on most military bases. As an alternative, the Department followed policy in the case where access is beyond the Department's control, by offering tag exchanges for available tags or refunds as an option to military hunt tagholders. This action led to extreme hunter dissatisfaction. In addition, the cancellation of these hunts effectively reduced deer hunting opportunities and interrupted ongoing deer management programs on the base.

The proposed change would maintain the existing season opening date and set the season end date to December 31, thus allowing sufficient time for the collection of harvest data and incorporation of this data into the Environmental Document analysis. The proposed change would not need to address a more flexible season as with other military base proposals, since the season end date of December 31 and proposed flexible season provided to the other military hunts would correspond. In addition, the policy for tag exchange or refund in case of hunt cancellation will be specifically defined in the special conditions to alleviate further problems or disputes.

9. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt J-10

Existing regulations for Hunt J-10 provide for a season beginning the last Saturday in September and continuing for two consecutive weekends, including the Columbus Day holiday, except if rescheduled between October 1 and November 30 by the Commanding Officer. Events of September 11, 2001 had a significant affect on operations at all military bases in California including Fort Hunter Liggett Military Reservation. Heightened security conditions forced cancellation of ongoing or scheduled deer hunts on most military bases. As an alternative, the Department followed policy in the case where access is beyond the Department's control, by offering tag exchanges for available tags or refunds as an option to military hunt tagholders. This action led to extreme hunter dissatisfaction, especially on the part of public hunters. In addition, the cancellation of these hunts effectively reduced deer hunting opportunities and interrupted ongoing deer management programs on the base.

The proposed change would modify the season description to provide more flexibility to the base Commanding Officer, upon concurrence from the Department, to operate the prescribed season within a time frame between the opening day and December 31. In addition, the policy for tag exchange or refund in case of hunt cancellation will be specifically defined in the special conditions to alleviate further problems or disputes.

10. Modify Special Conditions for Hunt J-4

Existing regulations for Hunt J-4 require successful applicants to attend a mandatory hunter orientation the day before season opening. At that meeting, hunters are provided information about the hunt and no special needs or issues are addressed or necessary. This required orientation meeting frequently burdens tag holders who live outside of the hunt area and limits time they might otherwise use in preparation for, or participation in, the hunt.

The proposed change would eliminate the requirement for mandatory attendance at an orientation meeting the day before season opening. By removing this restriction, more junior hunters will be allowed to participate in this junior hunt opportunity by eliminating potential scheduling conflicts. Instead, information currently provided to hunters during past orientation meetings will be sent to successful applicants by mail with their tags.

11. Modify Special Conditions for All Junior Hunts

Existing regulations for all junior hunts (J Hunts) require they be accompanied by a "licensed, non-hunting adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting." The requirements that the chaperons be "licensed" and "non-hunting" unnecessarily restricts the option for junior hunt participation, especially if the chaperon (usually a parent) does not meet these requirements. These requirements of the chaperon unnecessarily restrict licensed junior hunters based on their chaperon, and is counterproductive to the promotion of junior hunting opportunities. Hunter safety and licensing requirements are already applied to the junior hunter, and the requirement that the chaperon be non-hunting is arbitrary as most junior hunts are limited such that chaperons are not provided the opportunity to hunt while acting as chaperons during junior hunts.

The proposed change would delete the licensing and non-hunting requirements for adult chaperons on junior hunts. By removing these

restrictions, more junior hunters will be allowed to participate in junior hunt opportunities.

12. Establish New Junior Hunt J-16

Existing regulations provide deer hunting areas, seasons, bag and possession limits, and number of permits for Zone D-3. The zone currently provides limited special junior deer hunting opportunities on two wildlife areas, Hunts J-8 and J-9. In an effort to increase opportunity for young hunters, provide a higher expectation of success, meet public demand for junior deer hunting, and enhance hunter recruitment while meeting approved deer herd plan objectives, the proposal would establish a new junior hunt opportunity in Zone D-3.

The proposal creates a new additional hunt, J-16 (Zone D-3 Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt). The area and season would be concurrent with the Zone D-3 general season as described in subsection 360(a). The bag and possession limit would be one, either-sex deer with a recommended tag quota range of 10-75. Special conditions would be: junior license holders only may apply, and junior hunters must be accompanied by an adult chaperon, 18 year of age or older. Current regulations provide limited junior hunting opportunities in Zone D-3. This proposal would meet an expressed public demand for increasing hunting opportunity for young hunters, maintain appropriate harvest levels in the Zone D-3 deer herds, and be consistent with existing deer herd management plan recommendations.

13. Establish New Junior Hunt J-17

Existing regulations provide deer hunting areas, seasons, bag and possession limits, and number of permits for Zone D-4. The zone currently provides no special junior deer hunting opportunities. In an effort to increase opportunity for young hunters, provide a higher expectation of success, meet public demand for junior deer hunting, and enhance hunter recruitment while meeting approved deer herd plan objectives, the proposal would establish a new junior hunt opportunity in Zone D-4.

The proposal creates a new additional hunt, J-17 (Zone D-4 Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt). The area and season would be concurrent with the Zone D-4 general season as described in subsection 360(a). The bag and possession limit would be one, either-sex deer with a recommended tag quota range of 5-25. Special conditions would be: junior license holders only may apply, and junior hunters must be accompanied by an adult

chaperon, 18 year of age or older. Current regulations provide no junior hunting opportunities in Zone D-4. This proposal would meet an expressed public demand for increasing hunting opportunity for young hunters, maintain appropriate harvest levels in the Zone D-4 deer herds, and be consistent with existing deer herd management plan recommendations.

14. Establish New Junior Hunt J-18

Existing regulations provide deer hunting areas, seasons, bag and possession limits, and number of permits for Zone D-5. The zone currently provides no special junior deer hunting opportunities. In an effort

to increase opportunity for young hunters, provide a higher expectation of success, meet public demand for junior deer hunting, and enhance hunter recruitment while meeting approved deer herd plan objectives, the proposal would establish a new junior hunt opportunity in Zone D-5.

The proposal creates a new additional hunt, J-18 (Zone D-5 Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt). The area and season would be concurrent with the Zone D-5 general season as described in subsection 360(a). The bag and possession limit would be one, either-sex deer with a recommended tag quota range of 10-75. Special conditions would be: junior license holders only may apply, and junior hunters must be accompanied by an adult chaperon, 18 year of age or older. Current regulations provide no junior hunting opportunities in Zone D-5. This proposal would meet an expressed public demand for increasing hunting opportunity for young hunters, maintain appropriate harvest levels in the Zone D-5 deer herds, and be consistent with existing deer herd management plan recommendations.

15. Establish New Junior Hunt J-19

Existing regulations provide deer hunting areas, seasons, bag and possession limits, and number of permits for Zone X-7a. The zone currently provides no special junior deer hunting opportunities. In an effort to increase opportunity for young hunters, provide a higher expectation of success, meet public demand for junior deer hunting, and enhance hunter recruitment while meeting approved deer herd plan objectives, the proposal would establish a new junior hunt opportunity in Zone X-7a.

The proposal creates a new additional hunt, J-19 (Zone X-7a Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt). The area and season would be concurrent with

the Zone X-7a general season as described in subsection 360(b). The bag and possession limit would be one, either-sex deer with a recommended tag quota range of 10-40. Special conditions would be: junior license holders only may apply, and junior hunters must be accompanied by an adult chaperon, 18 year of age or older. Current regulations provide no junior hunting opportunities in Zone X-7a. This proposal would meet an expressed public demand for increasing hunting opportunity for young hunters, maintain appropriate harvest levels in the Zone X-7a deer herds, and be consistent with existing deer herd management plan recommendations.

16. Establish New Junior Hunt J-20

Existing regulations provide deer hunting areas, seasons, bag and possession limits, and number of permits for Zone X-7b. The zone currently provides no special junior deer hunting opportunities. In an effort to increase opportunity for young hunters, provide a higher expectation of success, meet public demand for junior deer hunting, and enhance hunter recruitment while meeting approved deer herd plan objectives, the proposal would establish a new junior hunt opportunity in Zone X-7b.

The proposal creates a new additional hunt, J-20 (Zone X-7b Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt). The area and season would be concurrent with the Zone X-7b general season as described in subsection 360(b). The bag and possession limit would be one, either-sex deer with a recommended tag quota range of 5-20. Special conditions would be: junior license holders only may apply, and junior hunters must be accompanied by an adult chaperon, 18 year of age or older. Current regulations provide limited junior hunting opportunities in Zone X-7b. This proposal would meet an expressed public demand for increasing hunting opportunity for young hunters, maintain appropriate harvest levels in the Zone X-7b deer herds, and be consistent with existing deer herd management plan recommendations.

17. Minor Editorial Changes

Existing regulations provide reference to other sections and subsections of Title 14, CCR. Current proposals would eliminate Sections 370, 371, 372, and 373 relative to tag procedures and move them to a new Section 708, titled, Big Game License Tag, Application, Distribution and Reporting Procedures. For consistency, these section and subsection references will need updating. This proposal would provide minor editorial changes

for consistency to section and subsection reference changes brought on by these proposed changes.

Minor editorial changes are also necessary for consistency in subsection numbering, spelling, grammar and clarification.

18. Number of Tags

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags for the additional hunts. The proposal changes the number of tags for all hunts to a series of ranges as indicated in the following table:

NUMBER OF TAGS					
Hunt	Current	Proposed	Hunt	Current	Proposed
G-1	3,500	500-5,000	M-11	20	20-200
G-3	25	25-50	MA-1	150	20-150
G-6	50	25-100	MA-3	150	50-200
G-7	20 Military *	20 Military *	J-1	25	10-25
G-8	30 Military * 30 Public	30 Military * 30 Public	J-3	15	15-30
G-9	15 Military * 15 Public	15 Military * 15 Public	J-4	15	15-50
G-10	380 Military * 100 Public	380 Military * 100 Public	J-7	10	10-30
G-11	500 Military * and DOD **	500 Military * and DOD **	J-8	17	10-20
G-12	30	25-75	J-9	5	5-10
G-13	300	50-300	J-10	10 Military * 30 Public	10 Military * 30 Public
G-19	25	10-65	J-11	40	10-50
G-21	25	25-100	J-12	10	10-20
G-37	25	25-50	J-13	40	25-100
G-38	300	50-300	J-14	30	15-75
M-3	20	20-75	J-15	10	5-30
M-4	15	15-50	J-16	New Hunt	10-75
M-5	15	15-50	J-17	New Hunt	5-25
M-6	80	25-100	J-18	New Hunt	10-75
M-7	150	50-150	J-19	New Hunt	10-40
M-8	40	20-75	J-20	New Hunt	5-20
M-9	15	10-100			

* Specific numbers of tags are provided for military hunts through a system which restricts hunter access to desired levels and ensures biologically conservative hunting programs.

** DOD = Department of Defense

The proposal provides a range of tag numbers for each hunt listed from which a final number will be determined, based on the post-winter status of each deer herd. The number of tags is intended to allow the appropriate level of hunting opportunity and harvest of bucks in the population, while achieving or maintaining the buck ratios at or near objective levels set forth in the approved deer herd management plans. Administrative procedures and the Fish and Game Code require the Fish and Game Commission to receive proposed changes to the existing regulations prior to the time when final, post-season deer herd surveys are conducted in the affected zones.

During late spring (March/April), herd surveys are conducted to determine the proportion of fawns which have survived the winter. This information is necessary for estimating the approximate size of the herd and the predicted number of bucks available next season. The number of bucks and does needs to be estimated prior to the hunting season to determine how many surplus bucks will exist over and above the number required to maintain the desired buck ratio objectives stated in the approved deer herd management plans.

The actual tag numbers for each affected hunt will be reflected in the Final Statement and will be selected from the range of values provided by this proposal. These final values for the license tag numbers will be based upon findings from the annual herd composition counts.

(b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Sections 200, 202, 203, 220, 460, 3452, 3453, and 4334, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 202, 203, 203.1, 207, 458, 459, 460, 3452, 3453, and 4334, Fish and Game Code.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change: None.

(d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

2002 Draft Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

In 2000, the Department held a total of twenty-three (23) "Deer Stakeholder" meetings throughout the state. The meetings were open to the public, and the Department provided information on a variety of deer management strategies

and issues including: Deer Assessment Unit (zone complex) planning and tag draw method alternatives. Attendees were asked to participate in a survey and public comment was also received. The dates and locations of these meetings were as follows:

July 24, 2000 - Chico
July 25, 2000 - Modesto
July 26, 2000 - Fresno
July 27, 2000 - Bakersfield
August 9, 2000 - Folsom
August 10, 2000 - Truckee
August 22, 2000 - Bishop
August 23, 2000 - Long Beach
August 24, 2000 - El Cajon
September 12, 2000 - Santa Barbara
September 28, 2000 - Salinas
October 17, 2000 - Eureka
October 18, 2000 - Red Bluff
October 19, 2000 - Susanville
October 20, 2000 - Redding
October 23, 2000 - Alturas
November 1, 2000 - Rohnert Park
November 14, 2000 - Yreka
November 16, 2000 - Merced
November 21, 2000 - Arroyo Grande
December 7, 2000 - Livermore
December 11, 2000 - El Centro
December 14, 2000 - Redlands

In addition, the Department conducted four public meetings in which regulation change concepts and specific proposals for mammals and furbearers, including deer were presented and discussed, and additional public comment was received. The dates and locations of these meetings were as follows:

November 7, 2001 in Fresno
November 13, 2001 in San Diego
November 29, 2001 in Monterey
December 13, 2001 in Sacramento

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

1. Modify Season for Hunt G-19

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

2. Modify Season for Hunt M-6

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

3. Modify Season for Hunt J-8

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

4. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-7

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

5. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-8

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

6. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-9

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

7. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-10

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

8. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-11

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

9. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt J-10

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

10. Modify Special Conditions for Hunt J-4

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

11. Modify Special Conditions for All Junior Hunts (J Hunts)

Delete requirement for adult chaperon entirely. This proposal was found to be inadequate, since a minimum level of supervision is recommended to ensure compliance with junior hunt special conditions.

12. Establish New Junior Hunt J-16

Various county boards of supervisors within the proposed hunt area have veto authority over either-sex or antlerless deer hunt proposals pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 458 and 459. A strong possibility exists that all, or a number, of those county boards will exercise veto authority over their portion of the proposed hunt area. Depending on which, if any, of those counties chose to exercise their authority, the Department may consider modification of the proposed area description and number of tags, especially if the remaining counties provide a significant contiguous area encompassing the bulk of the original proposed area.

13. Establish New Junior Hunt J-17

Various county boards of supervisors within the proposed hunt area have veto authority over either-sex or antlerless deer hunt proposals pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 458 and 459. A strong possibility exists that all, or a number, of those county boards will exercise veto authority over their portion of the proposed hunt area. Depending on which, if any, of those counties chose to exercise their authority, the Department may consider modification of the proposed area description and number of tags, especially if the remaining counties provide a significant contiguous area encompassing the bulk of the original proposed area.

14. Establish New Junior Hunt J-18

Various county boards of supervisors within the proposed hunt area have veto authority over either-sex or antlerless deer hunt proposals pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 458 and 459. A strong possibility exists that all, or a number, of those county boards will exercise veto authority over their portion of the proposed hunt area. Depending on which, if any, of those counties chose to exercise their authority, the Department may consider modification of the proposed area description and number of tags, especially if the remaining counties provide a significant contiguous area encompassing the bulk of the original proposed area.

15. Establish New Junior Hunt J-19

Various county boards of supervisors within the proposed hunt area have veto authority over either-sex or antlerless deer hunt proposals pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 458 and 459. A strong possibility exists that all, or a number, of those county boards will exercise veto authority

over their portion of the proposed hunt area. Depending on which, if any, of those counties chose to exercise their authority, the Department may consider modification of the proposed area description and number of tags, especially if the remaining counties provide a significant contiguous area encompassing the bulk of the original proposed area.

16. Establish New Junior Hunt J-20

Various county boards of supervisors within the proposed hunt area have veto authority over either-sex or antlerless deer hunt proposals pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 458 and 459. A strong possibility exists that all, or a number, of those county boards will exercise veto authority over their portion of the proposed hunt area. Depending on which, if any, of those counties chose to exercise their authority, the Department may consider modification of the proposed area description and number of tags, especially if the remaining counties provide a significant contiguous area encompassing the bulk of the original proposed area.

17. Minor Editorial Changes

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

18. Number of Tags

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

(b) No Change Alternative:

1. Modify Season for Hunt G-19

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because the current timing of the season is too late to allow the incorporation of the most accurate harvest data into population modeling and the Environmental Document analysis.

2. Modify Season for Hunt M-6

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because the current timing of the season is too late to allow the incorporation of the most accurate harvest data into population modeling and the Environmental Document analysis.

3. Modify Season for Hunt J-8

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because the current timing of the season is too late to allow the incorporation of the most accurate harvest data into population modeling and the Environmental Document analysis.

4. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-7

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because the necessary flexibility in season scheduling during current heightened security conditions would not be provided and hunt cancellation tag exchange and refund policies would not be clarified.

5. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-8

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because the necessary flexibility in season scheduling during current heightened security conditions would not be provided and hunt cancellation tag exchange and refund policies would not be clarified.

6. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-9

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because the necessary flexibility in season scheduling during current heightened security conditions would not be provided and hunt cancellation tag exchange and refund policies would not be clarified.

7. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-10

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because the necessary flexibility in season scheduling during current heightened security conditions would not be provided and hunt cancellation tag exchange and refund policies would not be clarified.

8. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt G-11

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because the current timing of the season is too late to allow the incorporation of the most accurate harvest data into population modeling and the Environmental Document analysis, and hunt cancellation tag exchange and refund policies would not be clarified.

9. Modify Season and Special Condition for Hunt J-10

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because the necessary flexibility in season scheduling during current heightened security conditions would not be provided and hunt cancellation tag exchange and refund policies would not be clarified.

10. Modify Special Conditions for Hunt J-4

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. If the existing regulation is retained, successful applicants would be required to attend a mandatory orientation meeting in advance of their hunt. The requirement to attend this meeting has been unpopular with some hunters because it may reduce the time they are able to pre-scout or participate in the hunt

11. Modify Special Conditions for All Junior Hunts

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because it unnecessarily restricts hunter participation based on requirements of their chaperon.

12. Establish New Junior Hunt J-16

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because junior hunt opportunities would be limited to buck only hunting in Zone D-3 with a lower expectation of success and a specific demand for these hunt opportunities would continue to be unmet.

13. Establish New Junior Hunt J-17

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because junior hunt opportunities would be limited to buck only hunting in Zone D-4 with a lower expectation of success and a specific demand for these hunt opportunities would continue to be unmet.

14. Establish New Junior Hunt J-18

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because junior hunt opportunities would be limited to buck only hunting in Zone D-5 with a lower expectation of success and

a specific demand for these hunt opportunities would continue to be unmet.

15. Establish New Junior Hunt J-19

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because junior hunt opportunities would be limited to buck only hunting in Zone X-7a with a lower expectation of success and a specific demand for these hunt opportunities would continue to be unmet.

16. Establish New Junior Hunt J-20

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because junior hunt opportunities would be limited to buck only hunting in Zone X-7b with a lower expectation of success and a specific demand for these hunt opportunities would continue to be unmet.

17. Minor Editorial Changes

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives, because inconsistencies in section and subsection references, numbering, spelling, grammar and lack of clarification would exist within the regulations.

18. Number of Tags

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the current number of tags for the hunts listed may not be responsive to changes in the status of the herds. The deer herd management plans specify objective levels for the proportion of bucks in the herds. These ratios are maintained and managed in part by modifying the number of tags. The no change alternative would not allow management of the desired proportion of bucks stated in the approved deer herd management plans.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the

regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made.

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businessmen to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California: None.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Businesses:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.

(e) Other Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST (Policy Statement Overview)

Existing regulations provide for deer hunting seasons which extend through or occur totally within January for additional hunts G-11, G-19, M-6, and J-8. In order to facilitate the incorporation of the most accurate harvest data into population modeling and the Environmental Document analysis, the proposal would move seasons such that hunt seasons do not extend beyond December 31.

Existing regulations provide for special deer hunting opportunities and seasons on military bases with additional hunts G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11 and J-10. Events of September 11, 2001 forced cancellation of most of these hunts due to heightened base security and military operations. In an effort to provide flexibility for the scheduling of these hunting seasons, the proposal provides a window between the scheduled season opening and December 31, in which the hunt can be conducted. Should the Base Commander choose to reschedule the hunt season, it must be with the concurrence of the Department and occur before December 31. In addition, the proposal increases the season length for Hunt G-7 from 51 consecutive days to 79, in order to provide more flexibility for conducting the hunt. The proposal also provides clarification of hunt cancellation policy for tag exchange or refund in the Special Conditions in order to provide notification of the Department's policy which is not readily available to the public.

Existing regulations provide for special conditions for Hunt J-4 which require hunt participants to attend a mandatory meeting the day before opening day. This requirement has been unpopular with many hunt participants as it unnecessarily reduces their time for scouting and hunting and may further reduce participation. The proposal would eliminate this requirement and instead information presented at the meeting would be mailed to the hunt participants with their tags.

Existing regulations provide for special conditions in all junior hunts (Hunts J-1 through J-15) Hunts) which require that their adult chaperon be "licensed" and "non-hunting". These conditions unnecessarily restrict hunter participation based on requirements of their chaperon. The proposal would remove this condition from all junior hunts.

Existing regulations provide for limited or no junior hunting opportunities in Zones D-3, D-4, D-5, X-7a and X-7b. In an effort to increase hunting opportunity for young hunters, and provide for a specific public demand for junior deer hunting, while meeting approved deer herd plan objectives, the proposal would create 5 new junior hunts: J-16, J-17, J-18, J-19 and J-20, in Zones D-3, D-4, D-5, X-7a and X-7b, respectively. The hunt area descriptions would correspond to the zone descriptions, and seasons would be concurrent with the general season as described in subsections 360(a) and (b). The bag and possession limit would be one either-sex deer, with

individual hunt tag quota ranges from 5-20 to 10-75 tags. Special conditions would require that applicants be junior license holders and be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older while hunting.

Existing regulations provide reference to other sections and subsections in Title 14, CCR. Under current proposals, Sections 370, 371, 372 and 373 would be deleted and moved to a new Section 708, titled Big Game License Tag, Application, Distribution and Reporting Procedures. The proposal would provide minor editorial revisions for consistency in section and subsection reference changes, as well as, any adjustments for subsection numbering, spelling and grammar.

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags for the additional hunts. The proposal changes the number of tags for existing hunts to a series of ranges presented in the following table. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because severe winter conditions can have an adverse effect on herd recruitment and overwinter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range.

NUMBER OF TAGS					
Hunt	Current	Proposed	Hunt	Current	Proposed
G-1	3,500	500-5,000	M-11	20	20-200
G-3	25	25-50	MA-1	150	20-150
G-6	50	25-100	MA-3	150	50-200
G-7	20 Military *	20 Military *	J-1	25	10-25
G-8	30 Military * 30 Public	30 Military * 30 Public	J-3	15	15-30
G-9	15 Military * 15 Public	15 Military * 15 Public	J-4	15	15-50
G-10	380 Military * 100 Public	380 Military * 100 Public	J-7	10	10-30
G-11	500 Military * and DOD **	500 Military * and DOD **	J-8	17	10-20
G-12	30	25-75	J-9	5	5-10
G-13	300	50-300	J-10	10 Military * 30 Public	10 Military * 30 Public
G-19	25	10-65	J-11	40	10-50
G-21	25	25-100	J-12	10	10-20
G-37	25	25-50	J-13	40	25-100
G-38	300	50-300	J-14	30	15-75
M-3	20	20-75	J-15	10	5-30
M-4	15	15-50	J-16	New Hunt	10-75
M-5	15	15-50	J-17	New Hunt	5-25
M-6	80	25-100	J-18	New Hunt	10-75
M-7	150	50-150	J-19	New Hunt	10-40
M-8	40	20-75	J-20	New Hunt	5-20
M-9	15	10-100			

* Specific numbers of tags are provided for military hunts through a system which restricts hunter access to desired levels and ensures biologically conservative hunting programs.

** DOD = Department of Defense

